

upwards of twenty miles West of the first fountain of the North branch. By this line it is a full third of the Province of Maryland, to the west of me; therefore, if it should be attempted to divide the county, in my opinion Licking creek would be a proper division, and a Court house at Old town, or near there.

The reason of our breaking up and coming home before finishing, was for want of provisions. We intend to set out on Sunday next, in order to complete, after which we shall give your Excellency a full account of all our proceedings with a journal, together with our expenses. As I have expended considerable more than I have received, I shall be glad your Excellency would be pleased to send me about two hundred pounds, to enable me to pay off pack horsemen, and choppers; pack horses hire is very high, for we killed three, and several of the others are not able to travel home. Since my return home, I met with your Excellency's letter, wherein you mentioned a Surveyor coming to assist; together with some particulars, such as staff and plum, those we made use of in the same manner Mr. Dickson and Mason did in running the Province line. I think I can lay out the proprietor, one or two thousand acres of land, that will in a short time be worth a guinea an acre—we was threatened very hard by some of the Virginia people before we set out; that fifty men was appointed to meet us and take us prisoners, but no body molested us. You must excuse further particulars, and we are,

Your Excellency's,

Most humble servant,

THOS. CRESAP.

Sept. 20, 1771.

In referring to the South branch, the commissioners state in this report, "we found the most westerly fountain to be a fountain of the North Fork, of the South branch of Potomac. The spring we proceeded from with our north line is small, but about one hundred rods from it, a little more easterly breaks out twelve springs, which makes a large branch at once." Your committee believe, that it may generally be safely relied upon, that the construction of an ancient charter contemporary with its existence or at a very early period, thereafter, is well calculated to inform those who live at a remote subsequent period of the true object and intention of the maker. So far as your committee have been able to ascertain, a uniform opinion has prevailed, that the first fountain having the greatest relative extent to the west, should be sought for as the place of beginning.